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Meeting of the Parties to the Protocol on Pollutant Release and Transfer Registers to the Convention on Access to Information, Public Participation in Decision-making and Access to Justice in Environmental Matters

Second session
Maastricht, the Netherlands, 3 and 4 July 2014
Item 5 (c) of the provisional agenda
Programme of work and operation of the Protocol: work programme for 2015-2017

Draft decision II/3 on the work programme for 2015–2017 for the Protocol on Pollutant Release and Transfer Registers

Summary

The present document was prepared by the Bureau of the Meeting of the Parties to the Protocol on Pollutant Release and Transfer Registers, with the assistance of the secretariat, pursuant to decision I/6 of the Meeting of the Parties (see ECE/MP.PRTR/2010/2/Add.1).[1] The document omits items from the current work programme that are no longer relevant and includes new items for the period 2015–2017. It was prepared on the basis of the draft proposal on elements of the work programme (ECE/MP.PRTR/WG.1/2012/6)[2] considered by the Working Group of the Parties at its second meeting (Geneva, 20–21 November 2012). In addition, the estimated cost requirements have been included.

The Bureau of the Parties to the Protocol considered the document at its fifth meeting (Madrid, 2–3 July 2013) and submitted it to the Working Group of the Parties for consideration. The Working Group approved the draft decision on the work programme for 2015–2017 for the Protocol (ECE/MP.PRTR/WG.1/2013/10) at its third meeting (Geneva, 20–21 November 2013) and agreed to submit it for adoption to the Meeting of the Parties at its second session.

[1] Available from http://www.unece.org/env/pp/mopp1.html.
[2] Available from http://www.unece.org/index.php?id=28225.

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The Meeting of the Parties,

Recalling article 17, paragraph 2, of the Protocol on Pollutant Release and Transfer Registers, which requires Parties to keep under continuous review the implementation and development of the Protocol, and with this purpose in mind, inter alia, to establish a programme of work,

Recalling its decision I/6 on procedures for the preparation, adoption and monitoring of work programmes and on the work programme for 2011–2014,

Taking into account the strategic plan for 2015–2020 of the Protocol on Pollutant Release and Transfer Registers adopted through decision II/2 and the scheme of financial arrangements adopted through decision II/4,

1. *Adopts* the work programme for 2015–2017, containing the estimated costs of each activity, as set out in the annex to this decision;

2. *Agrees* upon the indicative allocation of resources and the resulting estimated costs set out in the annex, subject to annual review and, as appropriate, revision by the Working Group of the Parties on the basis of annual reports provided by the secretariat pursuant to decision II/4 on financial arrangements;

3. *Encourages* Parties to endeavour to ensure that the funding of the activities of the work programme remains stable throughout the period 2015–2017;

4. *Also encourages* Parties, insofar as possible, and subject to the internal budgetary procedures of the Parties, to contribute to the Protocol's trust fund for a given calendar year by 1 October of the preceding year, so as to secure staff costs for the smooth functioning of the secretariat, as a priority, and the timely and effective implementation of the priority activities of the work programme for 2015–2017;

5. *Requests* the Bureau and the Working Group to keep under review the activities of the work programme for the period 2015–2017, and to report and make appropriate recommendations to the Meeting of the Parties at its third ordinary session;

6. *Calls upon* the Parties and invites Signatories, other States and relevant intergovernmental, regional and non-governmental organizations to contribute actively to the activities contained in the work programme;

7. *Requests* the secretariat, taking into consideration the results of the implementation of the work programme for 2015–2017, to prepare a draft work programme for the intersessional period following the third session of the Meeting of the Parties, including a detailed breakdown of estimated costs, for consideration and further elaboration by the Bureau and the Working Group of the Parties, at the latest three months before the third session of the Meeting of the Parties, with a view to possible adoption at that meeting.

Annex

Draft work programme for 2015–2017

Activity	*Objective and expected outcome*	*Lead country, body or organization*	*Method of work*	*Approximate time frame*	*Estimated costs in United States dollars per year (average)*		
					Item	*Core requirements*	*Additional requirements*
A. Compliance mechanism	Monitor and facilitate compliance with the Protocol	Compliance Committee	Compliance Committee to meet to review submissions, communications, etc., prepare decisions and reports and undertake fact-finding missions; secretariat to publicize the mechanism, develop a database of cases and service the Committee	Ongoing	Committee meetings (travel + DSA)	30 000	
					Expert missions	20 000	
					Subcontracts (e.g., translations, management of electronic databases, website maintenance and improvement)	10 000	
B. Technical assistance	Assist countries in the effective implementation of the Protocol	Secretariat in close cooperation with partner organizations (e.g. UNEP, UNITAR, OSCE, the Regional Environmental Centre for Central and Eastern Europe, GRID-Arendal, European ECO Forum) in the Framework Programme on PRTR Capacity-building[a]	Specific projects in countries needing assistance; training workshops, guidance materials and technical assistance, mostly separately funded; questionnaires, analysis of results	Ongoing	Meetings, (travel + DSA for eligible participants)		30 000
					Subcontracts (e.g., preparation of guidance material, research, analytical studies)		10 000
					Expert missions		10 000

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Activity	*Objective and expected outcome*	*Lead country, body or organization*	*Method of work*	*Approximate time frame*	*Estimated costs in United States dollars per year (average)*		
					Item	*Core requirements*	*Additional requirements*
C. Information exchange on a technical level	Monitor and facilitate the implementation of the Protocol	Working Group of the Parties to the Protocol	Meetings of the Working Group of the Parties to the Protocol; ad hoc expert meetings and missions; use of electronic tools including the Aarhus Clearinghouse for Environmental Democracy, PRTR capacity-building database and prtr.net, PRTR:Learn website, PRTR capacity-building activities database	Ongoing	Ad hoc expert meetings (travel + DSA for eligible participants)		30 000
					Subcontracts (e.g., maintenance and improvement of PRTR-related databases and other electronic tools)	20 000	
					Expert missions		10 000
D. Reporting mechanism	Monitor and facilitate the implementation of the Protocol; facilitate reporting, review of compliance and experience	Working Group of the Parties to the Protocol	Meetings of the Working Group of the Parties to the Protocol; exchange on a technical level of information on the application of electronic information tools; use of the online implementation database in the Aarhus Clearinghouse for Environmental Democracy, the PRTR:Learn website, the PRTR capacity-building activities database and e-reporting	Ongoing	Subcontracts (e.g., preparation of background material; maintenance and development of online applications for reporting)	20 000	

Activity	*Objective and expected outcome*	*Lead country, body or organization*	*Method of work*	*Approximate time frame*	*Estimated costs in United States dollars per year (average)*		
					Item	*Core requirements*	*Additional requirements*
E. Awareness–raising and promotion of the Protocol and its interlinkages with other treaties and processes	Further the knowledge of the Protocol throughout the ECE region and beyond, increase the number of Parties to the Protocol; further the application of the Protocol in the context of other MEAs and related processes (SAICM/ICCM)	Secretariat in cooperation with all other partners	Participate in key regional and international events and processes; provide support to workshops organized by others; prepare leaflets, publications, news bulletins and other materials; update website; write and review articles on the Protocol	Ongoing	Participation in relevant events where funding is not provided for by the organizers (travel + DSA)	10 000	10 000
					Subcontracts (e.g., organization of outreach campaigns)		10 000
F. Coordination and oversight of intersessional activities, organization of the third session of the Meeting of the Parties	Coordination and oversight of the activities under the Protocol, i.e., through the implementation of this programme of work	Working Group of the Parties to the Protocol and the Bureau of the Meeting of the Parties	Meetings of the Working Group of the Parties to the Protocol; meetings of the Bureau as necessary; consultations among Bureau members using e-mail, session of the Meeting of the Parties to the Protocol	Ongoing	Expert and secretariat travel and DSA, subcontracts (e.g., translations, promotional material, preparatory background material, reports and studies, media coverage of events)	105 000	
G. Technical assessment of provisions of the Protocol	Drafting of recommendations to the Meeting of the Parties on technical issues, based on the assessment and implementation reports	Secretariat; Working Group of the Parties to the Protocol	Meetings of the Working Group of the Parties to the Protocol, electronic consultation; drafting of assessment report(s) on experience gained in the development of national PRTRs according to article 6, paragraph 2, as appropriate, of the Protocol, and implementation reports	Ongoing	Subcontracts (draft recommendations on technical issues)	10 000	

Activity	*Objective and expected outcome*	*Lead country, body or organization*	*Method of work*	*Approximate time frame*	*Item*	*Estimated costs in United States dollars per year (average)*	
						Core requirements	*Additional requirements*
H. Horizontal support areas	Overall support that covers multiple substantive areas of the work programme	Secretariat	Secretarial support, staff training, equipment	Ongoing	Staff training	2 000	
Subtotal (activities)						**227 000**	**110 000**
Staff requirements:							
One P-3[b] full time						180 000	
One G-5[c]						38 900	
Subtotal (staff requirements)						**218 900**	
Programme Support Costs (13%)						57 967	14 300
Total						**503 867**	**124 300**

Abbreviations: DSA = daily subsistence allowance; ECE = United Nations Economic Commission for Europe; ICCM = International Conference on Chemicals Management; MEAs = multilateral environmental agreements; OSCE = Organization for Security and Cooperation in Europe; PRTR = pollutant release and transfer register; SAICM = Strategic Approach to International Chemicals Management; UNEP = United Nations Environment Programme; UNITAR = United Nations Institute for Training and Research.

[a] See http://www.unece.org/environmental-policy/treaties/public-participation/protocol-on-prtrs/areas-of-work/envppprtrcb/framework-programme-on-prtr-capacity-building.html.

[b] One P-3 Environmental Affairs Officer servicing all activities under the Protocol on PRTRs. If no provision is made under the United Nations regular budget for this post, it will require extrabudgetary funding. Where extrabudgetary contributions are insufficient to cover this post full time, the associated costs will be paid for from the contributions for the activities under the Convention (e.g., electronic information tools).

[c] During the last quarter of the year preceding the third session of the Meeting of the Parties (2017), an additional programme assistant could be hired for 10 months to provide horizontal administrative support, including for the Working Group of the Parties, the Meeting of the Parties, the Bureau, the Compliance Committee and national reporting.